Over Bridge at Alleppy Bypass in Kerala

180. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal regarding construction of a over bridge on Alleppy bypass in Kerala is pending with the Union Government since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for delay in clearance of the same; and

(c) the steps being taken for early clearance of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The proposal for Alleppy bypass including construction of two over bridges could not be taken up for want of adequate funds.

New National Highways in Maharashtra

181. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare 11 roads proposed by the Government of Maharashtra as "National Highways";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to meagre allocation of funds for the Central Sector Road Programme during the 8th Plan period and continued resource crunch, it has not been possible to declare any new National Highway in the State of Maharashtra.

NHS in Andhra Pradesh

182. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total length of national highways in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the length of national highways as per norms of GOI;

(c) whether as per norms, the length of national highways in Andhra Pradesh is less;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether State Government had submitted proposals for upgradation of roads into national highways; and

(f) if so, the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh is 2888 Kms.

(b) to (d) Since National Highways are intended to serve national interests as distinct from local interests, Roads are declared as National Highways keeping in view the country as a whole and not on any regional area/population/State basis.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(f) Due to meagre allocation of funds for the Central Sector Road Programme during the 8th Plan period and continued resource crunch, it has not been possible to declare any New National Highways.

Issuance of Passport

183. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a provision to issue passports to applicants prior to police verification;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which such passports are issued prior to such police verification;

(c) whether the P.R.O. in the Passport Office is authorised to order for the issue of such a passport; and

(d) if not, the designation of the officers in the Passport Office who are authorised to sanction the issue of such a passport?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Passports in anticipation of receipt of police verification reports are issued in cases where an applicant needs to travel urgently and has provided required documentation including a verification certificate from a prescribed authority or in cases where a police verification report is not received within the stipulated period.

(c) and (d) Passport authorities are prescribed in Schedule I to the Passport Rules 1980. This includes the Central Government officers of the level of Superintendent, P.R.O., A.P.O. and P.O. in all passport offices, certain other specified officers and any other officer designated by the Central Government from time to time.

Irrigation Potential

184. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total irrigation potential created through major and medium irrigation projects during the period from 1991-92 to 1996-97 year-wise in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the specific areas where such potential has been created alongwith the names of respective irrigation projects; State-wise ?